



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

100 Children Realize Their Forever Family This Week in Courts Across the State

LANSING, MI, November 22, 2016 - Judges across the state are finalizing adoptions for 100 children in courthouse ceremonies this week. The events are all part of efforts nationwide to highlight the importance of adoption, focus on the needs of children in foster care, and honor those who have worked tirelessly to help children find loving homes. Highlights of events in Michigan include:

- At the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Monroe County Judges Cheryl Lohmeyer and Frank Arnold, and Kent County Judge Kathleen Feeney finalized seven adoptions. In addition, Genesee County Judge Duncan Beagle was presented with the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for Exemplary Service to Michigan's Children and Families.
- In Midland, Judge Dorene Allen finalized eight adoptions in a Superman-themed ceremony that included a visit by the man of steel. The 2016 Angels in Adoption recipients Theresa and Chad Walters were also recognized by Congressman John Moolenaar, who participated in the presentations.
- In Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division, 13 adoptions were finalized. In addition, Judge Joan Young presented the Arthur Eugene Moore Champion of Children Award to Charles Ludwig from CARE House and Julia Rizzi from DHHS. Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti presented the Sandra Silver Advocate Award to attorneys John Maloney and J. Douglas Otlewski.

Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court fanned out across the state to participate in Adoption Day ceremonies:

- Justice Stephen J. Markman (Van Buren County and Berrien County)
- Justice David F. Viviano (Macomb County)
- Justice Joan L. Larsen (Oakland County)
- Justice Bridget M. McCormack (Washtenaw County)
- Justice Brian K. Zahra (Livingston County)

More information about happy celebrations happening in other courtrooms is available [here](#).

Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services information about adoption is available [here](#).

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